



Press release - Chamonix (France), Tuesday 1 October 2024

## From mythical trails of East China, to volcanic wonders of JeJu island, UTMB World Series is ready for Asian-Pacific adventure

- Asia's trail running community continues to thrive, with record numbers expected at TransJeju by UTMB® and Ultra-Trail® Ninghai by UTMB®
- One of China's most popular trail running events, Ultra Trail Ninghai by UTMB, draws fiercely competitive field
- Local runners ready to discover UNESCO World Heritage site of JeJu island, while vying for podium positions against international competitors

### Runners embark on an adventure, tracing the paths of ancient travel writers from 400 years ago



UTMB® World Series returns to the mountainous Zhejiang province, East China on October 19-20 for one of China's most popular events, Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB.

Drawing inspiration from Xu Xiake, an ancient Chinese travel writer who began an epic 34-year-long-journey from Ninghai, the race will welcome over 5,500 runners to follow in his footsteps, embarking on their own adventure through primordial forests, bamboo groves and ancient temples.

Year	Distance	Start	End	Category
2024	100K M	19 Oct	20 Oct	100K M
2024	100K M	19 Oct	20 Oct	100K M
2024	50K M	19 Oct	20 Oct	50K M

[Download race information](#)

Race Director, Qianyao Xue said, "Since its inception in 2013, Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB has grown beyond expectations, becoming one of China's premier trail events. It's not just about the competition; it's about celebrating the enduring spirit of trail running while preserving Ninghai's pristine ecological and mountain environment."

The event features three races' distances - 100M, 100K and 50K. The event has attracted some of China's top elite runners, including Juwei Zi (CHN, UTMB Index 891) in the 100K race, who is fresh from an impressive 4th place in the OCC at HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. He faces tough competition, including Jiasheng Shen (CHN, UTMB Index 903), the runner-up in the CCC® at the 2023 HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc, plus UTMB World Series podium finishers, Guangfu Meng (CHN, UTMB Index 895) and Yanqiao Yun (CHN, UTMB Index 891).

After securing second at Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB in 2023, Fuzhao Xiang (CHN, UTMB Index 793) will be aiming to go one better in the women's race this year. With a strong season already under her belt, including 2nd place at the 2024 Western States™ 100 Endurance Run, she is set for a good performance on home soil. Competition looks to be fierce however, with Anna Li (CHN, UTMB Index 714) amongst the top contenders after her win at Ultra Trail Mount Yun by UTMB® 100K earlier in the year.

The 50K race will see Yousheng Guan (CHN, UTMB Index 889) return to defend his title. It could be a tough ask however, with the 2024 Amazean Jungle Thailand by UTMB® 50K and 2023 Doi Inthanon Thailand by UTMB® 50K winner, Tao Luo (CHN, UTMB Index 888) also contesting for the top spot.

The women's race could feature an international podium and a closely contested race between the likes of Eszter Csillag (HUN, UTMB Index 776), who took third at the 2024 Western States™ 100 Endurance Run, Sunmaya Budha (NEP, UTMB Index 767), winner of Translantau by UTMB®, and the defending Ultra Trail Ninghai by UTMB 50K champion, Ruifang Zhou (CHN, UTMB Index 690).



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### Volcanic island adventure awaits at South Korea's TransJeju by UTMB



One of the most unique events on the trail running calendar, TransJeju by UTMB returns for its tenth edition, and second as part of the UTMB World Series from October 11-13. Located off the southern coast of South Korea, the stunning volcanic Jeju Island will welcome over 4,000 runners.

A designated UNESCO World Heritage site, Jeju Island boasts an array of highlights, including volcanic craters, ancient lava tubes, wild coastlines, and a rich biodiversity with over 1,800 species of subtropical plants.

Year	Distance	Start	End	Category
2024	100K M	11 Oct	13 Oct	100K M
2024	100K M	11 Oct	13 Oct	100K M
2024	50K M	11 Oct	13 Oct	50K M

[Download race information](#)

The 100K and 50K races will take runners to the peak of South Korea's highest mountain, Halla Mountain, and the enchanting crater lake at the top. The 20K distance promises scenic trails, as runners discover the charm of Gaisiri village, its folk culture and surrounding natural paradise.

Race Director, Byeung-sik Ahn said, "Jeju Island is a stunning and a popular place to come and visit, with a great infrastructure and tourist attractions and lots of delicious seafood. The trail running market in South Korea is getting bigger and bigger, Korean people really love nature and the mountains - with over 70% of South Korea made up of mountains. It is the perfect place to showcase this passion."

Local elite runners are also looking forward to showcasing their talents on home soil. In the 100K race, Junghyun Lim (KOR, UTMB Index 725) and Jeju local, Ko Minchul (KOR, UTMB Index 788) will have the opportunity to race some of Asia's top talent, including Guidu Qin (CHN, UTMB Index 864) and Kao Zhou (CHN, UTMB Index 820). In the women's race, Jinhee Kim (KOR, UTMB Index 613) will be looking to line-up and test herself against Lin Chen (CHN, UTMB Index 741), who recently finished 4th at UTMB and took 2nd place in the 2023 edition of TransJeju by UTMB 100K.

The 50K race has attracted an international field looking to tick off this bucket-list race, including Gediminas Grinius (LT, UTMB Index 850) and Billy Curtis (AUS, UTMB Index 825) in the men's race, plus Ruifang Zhou (CHN, UTMB Index 690) and Yuan Jin (CHN, UTMB Index 679) in the women's race. The challenge is on for the local Korean runners, as they look to etch their name on the podium results at the UTMB World Series event. Anything is possible for Dongkuk Jang (KOR, UTMB Index 730) and Kyuho Lee (KOR, UTMB Index 700) in the men's race, alongside Sooji Park (KOR, UTMB Index 640) and So Young Park (KOR, UTMB Index 617) in the women's race.



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Follow all the action from both Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB and TransJeju by UTMB [here](#).

- Upcoming events on UTMB World Series international circuit:**
- 3 - 6 October: Nice Côte d'Azur by UTMB® - France
  - 11 - 12 October: Kodiak Ultra Marathons™ by UTMB® - USA
  - 11 - 13 October: TransJeju by UTMB® - South Korea
  - 17 - 20 October: Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB® - China

More information can be found at the UTMB World Series [website](#).

#### Images

UTMB World Series images can be downloaded [here](#).  
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#### Note to editors

##### About UTMB® World Series

UTMB® World Series is the world's ultimate trail-running circuit that unites the sport's biggest stars and passionate runners through the best, leading international events in the most stunning locations. Built on a passion for the mountains with sustainability at its heart, UTMB® World Series gives all trail runners the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the world, with events taking place across Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. It is the only place where runners can begin their quest to HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, where the prestigious UTMB® World Series Finals will be held. Launched in May 2021 through the collaboration between the UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB World Series circuit brings together many of the best international trail-running events on the planet. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world>.

##### About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail™ technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Revered by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself, fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world>.

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